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Army tested germs on public in '64

From Chicago Tribune wires

WASHINGTON—Passengers at Washington's National Airport and a city bus terminal were secretly sprayed with bacteria by Army agents to test how enemy forces might start a smallpox epidemic, according to newly released documents.

The experiments were carried out in 1964-65 and also may have included bus terminals in Chicago and San Francisco, according to a heavily censored document released to the Church of Scientology under the Freedom of Information Act and made public Monday.

Army Special Operations agents used aerosol-like blowers concealed in specially built suitcases to spray the bacteria—*bacillus subtilis* var. *niger*—in the north departure building of National Airport and a Greyhound bus terminal, the document said.

THE ARMY has described that bacteria as harmless, but Sylvia Stanard, a Scientology official, said "the bacteria have been found to cause symptoms of respiratory infections as well as blood and food poisoning."

The document also reproduced Army photographs, taken surreptitiously, of several agents with their fake luggage wandering among passengers.

The church, which has exposed previous Army and CIA drug experiments through Freedom of Information requests, forwarded the findings to Sen. James Sasser [D., Tenn.].

Sasser has raised questions about current expansion plans for the Dugway Proving Ground in Utah where defenses against chemical and biological warfare are studied.

LAST MONTH, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger sent a letter to Sasser stating the U.S. does not engage in any biological or toxin weapons development.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union signed a treaty in 1972 banning biological weapons, but research on both sides continues.

The experiments in Washington were carried out under the auspices of the Army Biological Laboratories at Ft. Detrick, Md. Despite deletions, many details of the operation are included in "Miscellaneous Publication 7," which was stamped "secret."

A SOURCE AT Dugway said the document is authentic although parts are still classified. There was no Pentagon comment.

Document 7 estimated that the spraying of outgoing airline and bus passengers with a highly contagious disease, such as smallpox, would have far-reaching effects.

The document says the Army estimated that "infected passengers" in the tests would carry the bacteria to more than 200 cities. New York, Washington, Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles would have the highest incidence of infection.

The document is not clear—or details have been deleted—on whether experiments were actually carried out in Chicago and San Francisco.

STARTING IN 1952, Ft. Detrick also cooperated with the CIA in exotic experiments on Americans and some Canadians to covertly disorient or incapacitate enemy agents or groups with drugs or hypnosis.

In one CIA experiment, an Army biologist became deranged and committed suicide in 1953 after drinking a glass of liquor laced with LSD at an agency-arranged reception.

The government eventually admitted liability and belatedly granted his wife \$750,000 compensation.

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